



Gray Davis, Governor
State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

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July 3, 2002

To: LICENSED FULL-SERVICE HEALTH PLANS AND MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICE PLANS

From: Department of Managed Health Care

Re: Reminder to file Mental Health Coverage-Continuity of Care Policy by July 1st
Compliance Date

Section 1373.95 of the Health and Safety Code was amended by AB 1503, effective January 1, 2002, to add provisions for the continuity of care for mental health services in full-service and mental health care service plans. AB 1503 requires that Plans file a written policy describing continuity of care for mental health conditions with the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) on or before July 1, 2002. AB 1503 governs health service care plans that provide coverage on an employer-sponsored group basis or a specialized health care service plan that offers professional mental health services on an employer-sponsored group basis.

Section 1373.95(a)(2), requires Plans to file a written policy that includes, but is not limited to, a description of how the Plan will facilitate continuity of care for new enrollees who have been receiving services for acute, serious, or chronic conditions from a non-participating mental health provider when the enrollee's employer has changed health plans.

Policies not filed by July 1, 2002 are overdue. Please file your policy no later than July 15, 2002 as a discrete Amendment with the Department's Sacramento Office File Clerk. Identify the policy as an addition to the Plan's Exhibit J. Failure to file by July 15, 2002 may result in referral to the Department's office of Enforcement for appropriate action. If you have any questions regarding this letter or Section 1373.95, please telephone Steven R. Goby, Senior Counsel, at (213) 576-7580 or email at sgoby@dmhc.ca.gov.